Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

339. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) whether in virtue of the Cochin Darbar's membership in the above Council as announced at page 667 of the Cochin Government Gazette, dated 9th Medam 1109 any advice or opinion has been sought for by the Darbar upon any subject dealt with by that body ;

(b) if not, have the Government any intention of seeking Council's advice or opinion in any matter ;

(c) is the Government preparing any scheme for the carrying out of which financial help may be expected under the rules of the said Council ;

(d) what are the main privileges of membership ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Yes. Advice regarding the best and most economic methods of manufacturing refined jaggery has been sought for.

(b) Please see answer to (a) above.

(c) A scheme for the investigation into the cocoanut leaf disease in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk is under preparation.

(d) The State is represented both on the Governing Body and the Advisory Board having one representative on the former and two on the latter. The State is also entitled to advice on Agricultural matters from the Council and its experts and to a contribution for schemes approved by the Board.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know, Sir, whether the advice sought for has been obtained ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No. We have written for it only very recently.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Who are the representatives of both ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—On the governing body the Diwan is the representative and on the other body, the Superintendent of Agriculture and the Chief Veterinary Officer of the State.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know at what stage the scheme mentioned in sub-division (c) is at present ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is under preparation. The Agricultural Superintendent is preparing the scheme.

Filling up the Cochin Magistrate's post.

340. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) (i) whether they are aware that the post of Cochin Magistrate was not being filled up for some time ;

(ii) if so, for how many days and for what reasons ?

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